

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 078421

64

ORIGIN NEA-09

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MH VAN ORDER
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S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
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IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN
AF/- - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 028190

R 072105Z APR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 078421

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 7, 1975:

QUOTE: Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON A WIRE SERVICE STORY
THAT QUOTES PRESIDENT SADAT AS SAYING THAT HE MIGHT EXTEND
THE UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE MORE THAN THE THREE MONTHS AND
ALSO MAY PERMIT ISRAELI CARGOES THROUGH THE CANAL WHEN IT
REOPENS?

A. NO. I'VE SEEN THE REPORT, BUT I OBVIOUSLY DON'T HAVE
ANY COMMENT ON IT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY CLARIFICATION OR CONFIRMATION OF THE
STATEMENT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS SUPPOSEDLY MADE ON
BRITISH TELEVISION TO THE EFFECT THAT AMERICAN POLICY WAS TO
DESTROY THE OIL CARTEL?

A. IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT WHAT MR. ENDERS ALLEGEDLY
SAID WAS TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT. AND JUST LET ME REVIEW
WHAT OUR ATTITUDE IS WITH REGARD TO OPEC AND WITH REGARD
TO THE CURRENT PRODUCER-CONSUMER PREPARATORY MEETING THAT
IS CURRENTLY GOING ON IN PARIS. IT BEGAN TODAY. OUR
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PAGE 03 STATE 078421

PARTICIPATION THERE REFLECTS OUR DETERMINATION TO TRY AND
SEEK A CONSTRUCTIVE AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH OPEC
NATIONS, AS WELL AS DEVELOPING COUNTRY OIL CONSUMERS.

AS YOU KNOW, THE PURPOSE OF THE CURRENT MEETING IS TO TRY
AND SET UP, DISCUSS, A POSSIBLE AGENDA FOR A POSSIBLE
FUTURE PRODUCER-CONSUMER MEETING AND TO DISCUSS SUCH NON-
SUBSTANTIVE SUBJECTS AS THE PARTICIPATION IN THIS EVENTUAL

MEETING.

AND OTHER THAN THAT, I THINK I CAN'T ADD ANYTHING MORE TO WHAT I HAVE SAID ON THE RECORD -- ABOVEALL, WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID ON THE RECORD IN VARIOUS INTERVIEWS WITH REGARD TO OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THEENERGY PROBLEM AND THE AVENUES THAT WE'RE TAKING TO TRY ANDSOLVE THIS VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM.

Q. IS IT AMERICAN POLICY TO BREAK THE CARTEL?

Q. THAT'S THE QUESTION I WAS GOING TO ASK SPECIFICALLY.

A. WE, OBVIOUSLY, HOPE FOR IMPROVED MARKET CONDITIONS IN THE ENERGY FIELD. THAT IS VERY WELL KNOWN. BUT THE QUESTION IS: HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT IT?

YOU ALL KNOW, SOME OF YOU FAR BETTER THAN I, WHAT OUR STRATEGY IS,IF YOU WILL --WHAT OUR POLICY IS -- TO TRY AND SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. WE HAVE A FINANCIAL PROBLEM, AND THERE HAS BEEN THIS \$25 BILLION SAFETY NET ESTABLISHED.

OBVIOUSLY, THE OIL CONSUMERS, WE BELIEVE -- AND IT HAS BEEN AGREED WITH THE OTHER OILCONSUMERS -- MUST CONSERVE.

AND, THIRDLY, IF WE'RE GOING TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM, WE MUST DEVELOP ALTERNATIVESOURCES OF SUPPLY.

FOR ANY ELABORATION OF THESE POINTS, I SUPPOSE THE MOST DEFINITIVE DOCUMENT THAT I CAN REFER YOUTO IS THE SECRETARY'S NATIONAL PRESS CLUB SPEECHON THIS.

Q. COULD YOU THEN EXPLAIN WHAT YOU MEAN -- THAT IS, UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 STATE 078421

ENDERS'REMARKS WERE TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT?

A. THIS IS MY UNDERSTANDING. I SAW TWO TICKERS ON THIS.

WE HAD A PRELIMINARY CABLE IN FROM ENDERS STATING THIS. AND AT THE MOMENT THAT'S ALL I CAN GIVE YOU BECAUSE THAT'S ALL I KNOW -- THAT'S ALL I'VE RECEIVED.

Q. YOU DON'T HAVE THE TEXT OF THE ENDERS' -- WHATEVER IT WAS?

A. I'M NOT SURE THAT I'VE SEEN A FULL TEXT. I'VE SEEN SOME TICKERS ON IT, AND MAYBE A FBIS.WHETHER THAT REPRESENTS THE FULL TEXT OR NOT, I'D RATHER WAIT ON A QUESTION LIKE THIS.

Q. BUT YOU EXPECT TO GET THE TEXT, DON'T YOU?

A. WELL, I CERTAINLY EXPECT TO GET THE FULL TEXT; AND I THINK IT'S BETTER TO TRY AND LOOK AND SEE WHAT HE ACTUALLY SAID.

Q. DOES WHAT YOU'RE SAYING CONSTITUTE A DENIAL THAT WE'RE TRYING TO DESTROY THE OIL CARTEL?

A. I THINK MAYBE WHAT I QUIBBLE WITH IS THE USE OF THE VERB "DESTROY." I THINK THAT THERE CAN BE A, SHALL WE SAY, PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CONSUMERS AND THE PRODUCERS. AND BY "CONSUMERS," I DON'T LIMIT IT TO JUST THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES; BUT THERE ARE OTHER CONSUMERS SHALL WE SAY, THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES -- WHICH FACE VERY SERIOUS PROBLEMS ALSO. AND I THINK THE WAY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF ENERGY FOR EVERYBODY IS TO WORK TOGETHER AND NOT TRY AND HAVE CONFRONTATION. THAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CURRENT EFFORT THAT IS GOING ON.

Q. IN YOUR PREPARED REMARKS -- I ASSUME THEY WERE PREPARED -- YOU WERE SAYING THAT YOU ARE SEEKING A CONSTRUCTIVE AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH OPEC COUNTRIES, NOT WITH OPEC. BUT IS THERE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN OPEC AND OPEC COUNTRIES?

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 05 STATE 078421

A. I'M UNAWARE OF ANY DISTINCTION.

Q. SO, IF YOU ARE SEEKING SUCH A RELATIONSHIP, THEN IT'S OBVIOUS TO ME THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO DESTROY IT.

A. YES.

Q. SO YOU ARE, IN FACT, DENYING ANY SUCH INTENTION. WELL, THE QUESTION OF DESTROYING IT, BRINGING ABOUT ITS DEMISE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT -- I DON'T THINK THAT'S

THE PURPOSE. SO MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE DROOLED ON HERE; I SHOULD HAVE JUST AGREED WITH YOU.

Q. AGREED WITH WHAT?

A. WITH WHAT YOU SAID HERE: "ARE YOU DENYING THIS?"

Q. COULD YOU FURNISH US SOME DETAILS ABOUT THE TECHNICAL DETAILS CONCERNING THE REASSESSMENT OF U.S. POLICY: WHOM THE SECRETARY IS SEEING, WHEN AMERICAN AMBASSADORS WILL GO

BACK TO THE MIDDLE EAST, HOW LONG WILL IT LAST, AND SO ON
AND SO FORTH?

A. JUST BEFORE YOUR "SO ON AND SO FORTH," HOW LONG IT
WOULD LAST, I CANNOT TELL YOU. WITH REGARD TO OUR
AMBASSADORS FROM EGYPT, ISRAEL, JORDAN, AND SYRIA, THEY
ARE HERE. THEY MET WITH THE SECRETARY LAST WEEK. THEY'LL
BE MEETING WITH HIM AGAIN THIS WEEK AFTER THE SECRETARY
GETS BACK. I CAN'T GIVE YOU AN EXACT TIME AT THE MOMENT.
THEY HAVE BEEN MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY SISCO AND
MR. ATHERTON.

AS PART OF THE REASSESSMENT OF OUR POLICY IN THE MIDDLE
EAST, THE SECRETARY WILL BE MEETING OVER THE NEXT WEEK,
POSSIBLY TWO -- IT WILL DEPEND REALLY ON WHEN SOME OF
THE LEADERSHIP GETS BACK. FOR INSTANCE, I'M TOLD THAT
MR. ALBERT AND SOME OF THE OTHERS WON'T BE BACK UNTIL NEAR
THE END OF THE WEEK; SO IT MAY BE THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD
HAVE TO MEET WITH CERTAIN CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS NEXT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 078421

WEEK ALSO. BUT HE WILL BE HAVING A NUMBER OF MEETINGS
WITH -- EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR IN GROUPS -- IT MAYBE
BEFORE A COMMITTEE OR TWO. I JUST DON'T HAVE THE DETAILS
YET -- IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT REASSESSMENT OF OUR
MIDDLE EAST POLICY. SO THAT'S ABOUT THE ONLY NEW ELEMENT
I CAN INJECT INTO THE SECRETARY'S PLANS TO MEET. END
QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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